

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /095 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MVANORDER:RGH

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

NEA/ARN - MR. BULLEN

NEA/ARP - MR. AHERNE

AF/P - MR. POPE

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R 192320Z NOV 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
CINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL  
CINCEUR FOR POLAD

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS  
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR  
NOVEMBER 19, 1975:

Q. WHERE DOES THE UNITED STATES STAND IN REGARD TO AN  
INFORMAL MIDDLE EAST MEETING?

A. AGAIN, THE SECRETARY WAS ASKED ABOUT THIS YESTERDAY,  
AND IN FACT WAS ASKED ABOUT THIS QUESTION BY REPORTERS  
FOLLOWING HIS MEETING, AND HE SAID WE WOULD HAVE SOME  
THOUGHTS ABOUT THIS IN OUR REPLY TO THE SOVIET NOTE.

Q. WHEN IS THAT REPLY FORTHCOMING?

A. HE SAID IT WOULD BE SOON.

Q. IS THAT GOING TO BE HANDED OVER HERE OR IN MOSCOW?

A. I DO NOT KNOW WHERE IT WILL BE DELIVERED.

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Q. WHERE DID WE GET THE NOTE -- HERE OR IN MOSCOW?

A. HERE.

Q. IS THAT WHAT HE MEANT WHEN HE SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT  
REPLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SOVIET NOTE -- IN OTHER  
WORDS, THAT HE WOULD HAVE HIS OWN APPROACH TO RESUMING  
NEGOTIATIONS, CONTRARY TO WHAT THE SOVIETS WANT TO DO,

WHICH IS SIMPLY TO RESUME AT GENEVA?

A. THE SECRETARY WAS ASKED YESTERDAY BY A REPORTER:  
"MR. SECRETARY, ARE YOU PREPARED TO MOVE ON TO GENEVA  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SOVIET NOTE?" AND HIS ANSWER  
WAS, "NO, NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SOVIET NOTE, BUT  
WE ARE PREPARED TO MOVE ON TO GENEVA AND WE WILL BE  
REPLYING TO THE SOVIET NOTE SOON WITH OUR PROPOSALS  
AS TO HOW THE CONFERENCE CAN BE RECONSTITUTED."

Q. WELL, IT'S DIFFICULT -- I HATE TO ASK YOU TO TRY TO  
INTERPRET HIS MIND, BECAUSE HE'S NOT BEING EXPLICIT.  
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE MEANS WHEN HE SAYS " NOT IN ACCOR-  
DANCE WITH THE SOVIET NOTE." YOU WOULDN'T CALL IT  
REJECTING IT, WOULD YOU?

A. HE OBVIOUSLY DOES NOT ACCEPT ALL ASPECTS OF THE  
SOVIET PROPOSAL -- QUITE OBVIOUSLY, NOT THE PART ABOUT  
THE PLO. I THINK THAT IS REASONABLY EXPLICIT.

Q. IS THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL SOME MONTHS AGO FOR AN  
INFORMAL MEETING OF NATIONS INVOLVED IN THE MIDDLE EAST  
DISPUTE STILL ALIVE?

A. YES, I THINK IT IS. IT HAS NOT BEEN REJECTED. WE  
REMAIN IN CONTACT WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS ON THE  
SUBJECT AND IT REMAINS ONE OF THE OPTIONS.

Q. WELL, WHAT I'M ASKING IS: WOULD THE SECRETARY PREFER  
TO SEE SUCH AN INFORMAL MEETING TAKE PLACE BEFORE  
RESUMPTION OF THE FULL GENEVA SESSIONS?

A. I THINK OUR POSITION ON THAT REALLY IS EFFECTED BY  
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THAT OF THE PARTIES. WE DO NOT HAVE A PREFERENCE FOR  
ONE ROUTE OR THE OTHER.

Q. YOU'VE HAD A LOT OF TIME TO CHECK WITH THE PARTIES  
NOW. IT'S BEEN A COUPLE OF MONTHS SINCE THE SECRETARY  
MADE THE PROPOSAL. HAVEN'T YOU HAD A SOUNDING FROM THEM  
AS TO WHAT THEY'D LIKE TO DO? THE RUSSIANS HAVE SAID

THEY'D LIKE TO GO BACK TO GENEVA. WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS?

A. I REALLY CANNOT GO BEYOND WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID  
YESTERDAY.

Q. WELL, THE SECRETARY USED THE WORD "RECONSTITUTED,"  
WHICH WOULD SUGGEST THAT IT'S NOT GOING TO BE CONSTITUTED

AS IT WAS BEFORE, THAT THERE WILL BE A DIFFERENT FRAME-  
WORK. IS THAT, INDEED, OQR CORRECT INTERPRETATION OF  
THAT WORD?

A. I AM NOT REALLY IN A POSITION TO GET INTO A DETAILED  
DEFINITION OF WHAT THE SECRETARY MEANT BY EACH WORD.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY REACTION ON THE STATEMENT BY THE  
SYRIAN INFORMATION MINISTER YESTERDAY IN WHICH HE SAYS  
HE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE RETURN OF MR. MURPHY?

A. I'M SURE MR. MURPHY WILL BE RETURNING TO DAMASCUS.  
I DON'T HAVE HIS DATE OF DEPARTURE.

Q. DO YOU KNOW WHEN?

A. NO, I DON'T. SOON.

Q. IS IT THE U.S. POSITION THAT COUNTRIES WITH THE  
AMOUNTS LISTED NEXT TO THEIR NAMES IN THE FOREIGN AID  
BILL, BOTH ECONOMIC AND MILITARY, SHOULD GET EVERY  
DOLLAR THE ADMINISTRATION HAS PROPOSED, NOTWITH-  
STANDING THE AMERICAN ASSESSMENT OF THE VOTE IN THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON ZIONISM EQUALS RACISM?

A. I THINK THAT HAS BEEN THE PURPORT OF BOTH THE  
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SECRETARY'S TESTIMONY AND THAT OF OTHER WITNESSES ON THE  
HILL IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE --

Q. THAT THERE BE NO CHANGE IN THE DOLLAR FIGURE?

A. -- THAT WE HAVE TAKEN MANY FACTORS INTO ACCOUNT IN  
PRESENTING THIS TO THE CONGRESS AND WE HOPE IT WILL BE  
ADOPTED.

Q. NO, BUT THE VOTE TOOK PLACE AFTER THE PRESENTATION,  
AND I'M ASKING WHETHER THE POSITION NOW IS THAT THE  
DOLLAR FIGURES STAND, NOTWITHSTANDING THE VOTE, DOLLAR  
FOR DOLLAR.

A. THAT IS MY UNDERSTANDING.

Q. WHAT IS THE U.S. DOING TO REGISTER ITS DISPLEASURE  
WITH THAT VOTE?

A. WE HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING SINCE WE LAST ADDRESSED  
THIS QUESTION BOTH HERE AND AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

Q. THERE IS NO CONTEMPLATION OF ANY ACTION, IS THAT CORRECT?

A. I'M NOT IN A POSITION TO SPECULATE ON SPECIFIC ACTION. WE DID ANNOUNCE OUR WITHDRAWAL FROM PARTICIPATION IN ONE PARTICULAR PROJECT SPONSORED BY THE UNITED NATIONS.

Q. WHAT WAS THAT, THE ILO?

A. NO, THE CONFERENCE ON DECADE AGAINST RACISM THAT THE UNGA IS SCHEDULED TO CONVENE IN GHANA IN THE NEXT YEAR.

Q. HAS THE UNITED STATES RECEIVED WORD, AS REPORTED ON NBC, THAT THE SYRIANS -- I KEEP LOSING OUT I KNOW -- THAT THE SYRIANS ARE GOING TO RENEW UNDOF?

A. WE CERTAINLY HOPE THEY WILL, BUT WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION THAT THAT IS THEIR INTENTION.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS CONFERENCES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 NOV 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975STATE274374  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** MVANORDER:RGH  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750404-0611  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19751131/aaaabbegq.tel  
**Line Count:** 250  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN NEA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 5  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** izenbei0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 01 DEC 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <01 DEC 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <23 JAN 2004 by izenbei0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SOPN, AG, XF, UR  
**To:** ALGIERS MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006